

**ICANN**

**Moderator: Julie Hedlund  
July 28, 2011  
2:00 am CT**

Julie Hedlund: Thank you very much (Carol), and good morning to everyone. This is the call of the Greek Case Study Team for the ICANN IDN Variance Project.

And I want to welcome everyone on this call. On the call we have, the Coordinator, Vaggelis Segredakis. And also from the case study team we have Evangelos Melagrakis and Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos...

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Perfect Julie. It's perfect.

Julie Hedlund: ...anyway. I'm sure that the transcript will show the spelling, since my pronunciation is not the best.

But also from ICANN staff we have myself, Julie Hedlund. And just to go over briefly the agenda. We have today to see if there were any questions on some of the notes that were sent out from the sessions in Singapore.

We have a reminder that we have a statement of interest form that we're asking people to complete. And so that we can all see what our backgrounds are.

And it's also for information so that the public will be able to see also who is on the various teams and what their backgrounds are.

And we can decide if we want to talk a little bit about the draft work plan, and perhaps some potential issues. And also a schedule for our further teleconference meeting.

Is there anything anyone would like to add to the agenda?

Evangelos Melagrakis:        Evangelos says no.

Julie Hedlund:        Okay, well okay. Thank you very much. Then what I'd like to do is start with the notes from the - start with the notes from Singapore. And I know that Evangelos and Panagiotis both had a chance to review them and also gave some very helpful edits to them. And I think really improved them greatly.

And Vaggelis, I was wondering if you had any questions for Evangelos or Panagiotis on the notes. Anything that you think might be clarified.

Vaggelis Segredakis: First of all, I would like to say that the notes and the work that had been done there is excellent. It's very close to the points that have been identified as potential problems in IDN variant.

I would like to, just for the record to say that we could identify two different types of variant issues in Greek and I guess in every other language. The variant should get registered along the main domain name because they help the user experience. And in Greek, we have some cases like that.

And the variant that should be excluded from registration because represent issues. And on the first category, we have in Greek variants that are different from the main domain because of (donors) of final sigma, or any other variation.

And on the second category we have variants that look alike where it's the domain name. They are homographs as we call them. Although, in different script.

So we have a word in Greek and a word in Latin, like let's say some of the well known brands that you can type them in Greek, and they look alike, the word in English - in Latin script. And they should be excluded, or they should be treated in a way that protects the final user.

And variants that very closely resemble the main domain name, like (Ellada), if you write it with double L, and (Elada) if you write it with single L, which is of course not a very common way to put it in Latin. But somebody might could.

And, especially in Greek, we have a very unique and special problem in these last few years. The use of (greeklish), which is the Greek words typed sometimes in Latin characters.

And they have the same sound, the same meaning. Some people use them in portable devices like mobile phones and stuff like that. And they should be treated very carefully not to have two domain names that mean the same, or that actually are used in the same way.

So that are the things that I think should be taken into account. And should be started in our discussion. Other than that, I think most of the points that Evangelos and Panagiotis already have laid out in the notes and in the last meeting are very well and very in the subject. Because especially the identification of the characters that should be used is a task that really needs discussion among the members of these teams.

Julie Hedlund: Thank you very much Vaggelis. Evangelos, Panagiotis do you have any comments you want to make on what Vaggelis just said?

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: It's Panagiotis here. And I would like to add to what Vaggelis said that just a reminder for the record that the IDNs are allowed only in the small letters. And that at least in our regulation, the Greek regulation, no mixed letters are allowed. So you cannot use a name with a buffer, Latin and Greek letters in the same domain name.

And this I think solves a lot of issues. Since we'll only have the names we've - big characters or names with Latin characters, even with the Greek list. And yes, this is for now.

And the homophones, I believe it's something okay, while talking one to each other, we can let say confuse with homophones. But when we will write them down I think, it's a different thing.

So we can, I suggest that we can speak to homographs and the homograph issue and the issue of compatibility between Latin and Greek letters. I would like to have your comments on this.

Evangelos Melagrakis: It's Evangelos right now. I am aware of an excellent presentation that Vaggelis and Panagiotis, or Vaggelis only have prepared on variants.

And I think that this presentation could be the basis of our discussions when we come to the variant issue. I would like to discuss a little bit the character set that we will be using.

And there are some issues there that I would like to discuss with the other members. And when we settle these issues, then we can go on for - to discuss the variants.

The issues that I would like to discuss concern mainly the, what I have called the multi key with Monotonical and Polytonic, and this is an issue that has come up in the Singapore meeting.

And if Vaggelis agrees, then we can start discussing a little bit that. And if we settle around a character set that we'll all agree to use, then we can go on to discuss the other issues. Thank you.

Vaggelis Segredakis: So this is Vaggelis again. And of course I agree with Evangelos. And I saw the proposal he made in Singapore about Monotonical with the current Greek characters.

And some more from that are used in let's say the (unknown word) scripts or some transcripts of ancient Greek. And I would like to say that I don't believe that it is of any use to use characters that go beyond these characters that Evangelos said that like the real ancient characters or stuff.

I don't believe that anybody would be interested in - really interested to register a GTLD that would be in ancient Greek characters. It would be good to stick with the current Greek characters, with the use of Polytonical, the use of Monotonical as well.

And maybe a little bit more. But not all the characters that have been in use in Greek languages since ancient times.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Okay it's Evangelos again. Then Vaggelis, if we have an agreement on that then I'm glad. I would also like your opinion on the use of Demotic Key only, not in more all the form of writing Greek. Because, as you know, there could be a lot of issues when we use, for example (cafaluso), even more all the forms of writing Greek. And definitely we should write - we should try to avoid having issues with it.

Vaggelis Segredakis: In (unknown word, might be Katharevousa) we use the same characters. So it's a matter of words or a matter of meaning of a special word. But it's not the difference of it, is it? Am I right on that?

Evangelos Melagrakis: Yes. To give you an example of what may come up, let's take the example of the Orthodox (chants). In Greek we can use (orfovoxos) in the (cafaluso) or (fodox) in Demotic Key.

And this represents exactly the same thing. It's just the way we used to write it in the (cafaluso), or we used to - or the way we write it in the Demotic Key.

You can't understand that we will have lot of words written in (cafaluso) and Demotic Key. And this will represent a real variant problem I think. That's why I tried to avoid the (cafaluso).

Vaggelis Segredakis: The issue that comes with that and is presented to us is like we are trying to set out of a set of rules that are applicable from a guy that actually does not understand fully the meaning of Greek.

So it would be nice if most of our document is made in such a way that somebody that does not know Greek can apply most of the rules that we put out directly into our registration.

So if somebody doesn't know Greek, he cannot tell the difference between katharevousa and dimotiki. I think we should just try to explain that there - this is a (confusability) of the meaning of words. Am I right?

Evangelos Melagrakis: Yes.

Vaggelis Segredakis: It's two words that mean the same, but they are spelled out a little bit different.

Evangelos Melagrakis: If I understand you correctly, you would like to stick to the characters only? And guide them some words.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Yes. I would like very much to stick on the characters. And as a final rule say that there might be some problems with the meaning of words because there was katharevousa. And there is dimotiki.

And there might be two different words that mean the same. And that's the final check you have to make before registering something. Do not allow two words to mean the same or something like that.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Okay. I understand that. I can agree with that. Excluding (cafaluso) or having a clear rule in the registration documents that the registrar can check whether these two words mean the same is okay to me. So I can agree with what you are saying right now.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Okay. So I have a proposal to make just to push things forward. I think the three of us do seem to be the more active members of this group, up to now of course.

And I would suggest that I could try to make a skeleton of a draft document or something. Taking into account some of the other documents that have been circulated, like a document from (unintelligible) I think about Latin characters. Where some of the issues are very similar to the issue that we have.

And try to make a first document. Discuss it, maybe the three of us. I'll try the group first to have something that looks like a good position, a good basis for a discussion.

And present it before the next teleconference to everybody else. And have a basis for discussion from that document, not again to start from scratch.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Okay, agree with that also Vaggelis, if Panagiotis also agrees.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: It's Panagiotis here. Thank you Vaggelis. Yes, I agree. And I propose in this first draft to, as we said in the minutes to give some examples let's say, and categorize the issues.

Let's say first is the homograph, the Greek homograph examples. The second category, can we have the homograph between Greek and Latin? And we'll see a lot of categories of course.

And so it will be, I think that if we'll have to categories the issues, it will be easier for us as a team and for the others who will look (outcome of our thing) to understand and to handle this similar and different cases.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Yes of course.

((Crosstalk))

Panagiotis Paspiliopoulos: Also the members of the team.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Sorry, I stopped Panagiotis. I thought that you had already finished. Julie, can we ask you something? How long will it be before the transcript of this discussion is available? Do you know?

Julie Hedlund: Yes. So this is Julie. It's supposed to be available in 48 hours. Sometimes it's actually faster than that.

And I will have notes out tomorrow. They won't be as comprehensive obviously as the transcripts.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Of course.

Julie Hedlund: But I'll have some notes out to you tomorrow. And then I'll send the transcript around as soon as it's available. And I should hope by this - by Friday.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Okay. So it's the 28th of July today. I think it would be possible for us to have something by the 10th of August, unless some of our members here is on vacation time. Do we have anything like that?

Evangelos Melagrakis: Vaggelis, do you asking me when I will have my vacations?

Vaggelis Segredakis: Yes.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Most probably I will have vacations from the 8th or 9th of August until the end of August. That is my schedule. I don't know if I will fulfill this schedule. But this is what I'm trying to do.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Panagiotis I think you already had vacation so?

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: I've had the week of vacation. And my original plan is to leave again on the 5th of August and to come back on the 20...

Vaggelis Segredakis: And will you have any access to Internet?

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: I might have because I have some other obligations. And I might have access to the Internet on an everyday basis.

And I don't know if I will have a fixed telephone line. But I think I will have everyday access to the Internet. So in case I will not be able to participate like I'm doing right now, at least I can send some mails. Yes.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Okay. So it would be safe in that case for me to say that I could try to draft something by the 10th of August. And send it out first to you two. And maybe send you an (SMS) or something to review it. And then we decide if it's good enough for the next teleconference.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: When do you believe it's good to have the next teleconference? If it will be after the 15th of August, I believe that I will have access to a fixed telephone line.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Julie, what's the timetable for the schedule for the - this document, when it should be delivered to ICANN?

Julie Hedlund: And so the timetable is that this team will issue a report not later than the end of September. And actually even with this call, I would say that based on some of the other calls that I have heard of, you are already making great

progress. Several of the other teams, as you might imagine, have some very difficult and complicated issues with variance.

And so I would say that if you want to have a draft for the three of you to look at on the 10th of August, we could then - you know, we could try to schedule a call at least with the three of you that next week, perhaps, once Panagiotis has a telephone line. But I prefer that Evangelos goes on vacation. And Evangelos, I can't remember when you said you were leaving.

Evangelos Melagrakis: I said that I would be away from most of the telecommunication means starting from the 8th or 9th of August. So if it is for next week, I'm available.

Vaggelis Segredakis: No. Actually, we're talking about the teleconference and should be like - yes.

Julie Hedlund: Yes, it would be some time after Vaggelis would be able to send a draft, so you would probably already be on vacation at that point.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Yes, I'm...

Vaggelis Segredakis: Would it be possible to have a teleconference, let's say, about the 20th of August? It should be over the phone anyway for us.

Evangelos Melagrakis: I will try to be in the way to participate in a teleconference on the 20th of August, but I let you know well before.

Julie Hedlund: That's actually a Saturday, so perhaps we could try for the 19th which would be a Friday.

Vaggelis Segredakis: That's good.

Evangelos Melagrakis: All right.

Julie Hedlund: Would that - would we want try for the 19th of August?

Vaggelis Segredakis: Mm-hm, that works for me.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Okay, I will try also. I will let you know in a couple of days the possibilities that I have for the 19th of August. Anyway, I will also have some limited accessibility to the Internet throughout my vacation, so I will take all messages and responds to messages if it's required if I'll see.

Julie Hedlund: So this sounds like a very good plan. Thank you, Vaggelis. I think having a draft and having the three of you look at it first since you are the most engaged so far, I think, would be very helpful.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Just...

Julie Hedlund: Yes, please go ahead.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: It's Panagiotis, sorry to interrupt Julie. I will just like to inform Vaggelis, because Vaggelis was (unintelligible), that we had a very useful talk in a very nice wall with other coordinators of the other groups. And together with Jothan Frakes which is the coordinator of the Latin group, we said that it's good to example also the (unintelligible) between Greek and Latin and Cyrillic of course.

And - so having my (unintelligible) that we have to deliver this by September, it's good - it will be good if we can have some first conclusions in order to, in

September, to continue our work and try to cooperate also with the Latin group in some way.

Vaggelis Segredakis: And maybe the Cyrillic as well.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Yes, and the Cyrillic, of course. That's why I think that the schedule that we just settled is convenient. If we can have by end of September, it sounds like a - almost a fine convection, let's say, of our group to cooperate to discuss with the Latin group. They would like very much to have this conversation.

Vaggelis Segredakis: That's a very good idea, I think.

Evangelos Melagrakis: I'm sure that I would like to come back to an issue on variance again if it's - if I'm allowed to do so by all of you. I don't know.

Julie Hedlund: Please go ahead.

Evangelos Melagrakis: What I'm concerned is specifically the issue of homographs in different scripts. And I see this issue as a temporary issue only. I'm pretty sure that when Internet has a lot of internationalized domain names or TLDs or whatever, then I believe that the software industry and the browsers who will come with different solutions than those we have today to identify a domain name or to visualize - to visually separate one domain from the other.

What I'm trying to say that we try to identify issues on homographs between Latin and Greek or Greek and Cyrillic or Latin and Cyrillic and things like that. But if we go beyond these scripts, I would say that nobody can distinguish between Thai and Devanagari or Korean and Chinese and

Japanese characters, because actually they see thousands of ideograms in their scripts.

And I do believe that when the amount of domain names or TLDs in an internationalized forum comes into effect into the Internet, then I believe that the view that we have on how we can identify one domain and the other will change radically, because the need will be much different than the need that we have today where we have only one script, the Latin script, to do the searching of the information and the searching of domains and things like that.

So we have to see that when the decision of Singapore - that was a historic decision for me - comes into real effect when we see lots of internationalized domains, then most probably we'll see other means of separating the information and identifying information than the means that we have today. So we have to have a clear view and our thoughts should be that we can set rules right now on excluding variance and things like that, but tomorrow the needs and the possibilities will be much different. That's what - these are my thoughts. We should not limit ourselves to see what happens in the Greek and Latin scripts right now, because in the near future, the Internet will be - the Internet will have lots of scripts and the means to identify information will be much different than the means that we have today.

Sorry for giving all this thoughts in one spot. This is an issue that I would like to keep in the back of our heads.

Vaggelis Segredakis: It's Vaggelis again, if you've finished Evangelos. And I think what (unintelligible) said earlier that there are groups that (unintelligible) face significant problems in identifying variance is actually what you said now, that some people will have real problems identifying all the issues and producing a document. And I guess and I believe that the 30th of September

will never be the actual date of the finishing the job of all these groups. But it would take significantly more time, especially when groups are - you know, have to discuss with each other, like we have with the Latin group or we have with the Cyrillic group.

If you take - if you think about the Asian groups, it would take significantly longer to produce something like that. But on our case, I think what we have in hand, it's quite less complicated and it's very good for our group at least.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: And did you finish, Vaggelis?

Vaggelis Segredakis: Yes, I have finished.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: It's Panagiotis here. And as we had discussed with coordinators of the other groups in Singapore, we agreed that the checking for these issues should be done locally and by the browsers. And I believe that due to the fact that IDNA protocol is finalized I think I think that the browsers, most probably, they will have the same way over handling these issues.

Of course, having in mind that, for example, you cannot mix Greek and Latin in the same word, something like this, but I believe that this can be done at the local level by the browser in the same way. Am I right? Because I know that you are following the ideas for schedules about the IDNA protocol, Vaggelis.

Vaggelis Segredakis: The IDNA, yes, it is already finished. Many of the things that were used to be considered element of the IDNA have now left out of the protocol and they are an obligation of the browser. And I think this is both good and bad, because the good thing is that the browsers will be actively involved in trying to separate different characters for the user experience to be easy to identify

them. But on the other hand, when they were in the protocol, it was quite safer for everybody.

Anyway, the choice of the group this time was to take most of the characters out, leave just the small characters in the protocol, and ask for the browsers to make the characters that its typing, small characters that could be identified and put in the protocol. So I expect that most browsers will be more actively involved in trying to educate the user what is typed in front of them.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Mm-hm, okay.

Evangelos Melagrakis: And I do believe that the - in a lot of the national (unintelligible) body, we are following also the work of some mainly international technical committees like (unintelligible) subcommittee 35, I believe, in Asia, the International Standards Organization. And I think that similar issues have come up as those described by the - Vaggelis. And what is the information that we are getting from this work is that what exactly Vaggelis said before, that the browsers will take a much more active role in educating, as you said, the user on what is typed and how the information will be seeked and things like that.

Okay. I do believe that we are aware of most of the basic things that need to be in front of us in order to product something useful. Thank you.

Vaggelis Segredakis: So, Julie, do you think it's time to wrap it up?

Julie Hedlund: It sounds like it. This sounds like an extremely good plan. I have to say that I feel extremely fortunate to have picked such a good group to work with. I'm very excited about your proposal to draft something and I want to - you know,

please let me assist you in any way I can with that document. Yes, I think this is an excellent start.

I should - Vaggelis, I don't think I had a chance to tell you that when I was asked to volunteer my time to support the IDN Variant projects, I didn't know, you know, which groups needed help. But I looked at the list of the case study teams, and because I've been to Greece several times and I know just a tiny bit of Greek - obviously very badly - but I have been very interested in Greece, and so I said, "I'll volunteer for the Greek team." So I'm very glad that I did.

I think I picked an excellent team, and I think this is a good plan. So I guess what then we can look for is a draft proposal, a draft initial document from Vaggelis for this three of you to look at. And we can schedule a call for Friday the 19th of August. I'll be happy to schedule it at the same time if that time works for all of you.

Vaggelis Segredakis: I guess Friday 10:00 is a good time. I don't know if any other member has an objection to that.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Which date?

Vaggelis Segredakis: Nineteenth of August.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Nineteenth. Okay.

Julie Hedlund: Okay, Friday the 19...

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Julie, you will send us a reminder, of course?

Julie Hedlund: Absolutely, of course, and all of the teleconference information. We'll do it the same way as this one, so we'll have it recorded and transcribed. Do you want the call to be just with the three of you to discuss the draft document, or do you want the call to be with the full team?

Vaggelis Segredakis: I think I would prefer to have the call with the - with Evangelos and Panagiotis separately on our own, so we can first discuss the variant first draft and present something before the 19th that is good enough for every other member to discuss it as well.

Julie Hedlund: Yes, thank you. Then I will - I'll arrange the call on the 19th with just this smaller group. That's what I thought, but I wanted to be sure.

Vaggelis Segredakis: No, no, no. That's the opposite from what I tried to say, sorry.

Julie Hedlund: I'm sorry. Please.

Vaggelis Segredakis: I will try to be in contact with Evangelos and Panagiotis myself doing the draft first writing, and so that the document that we present on the 19th might be good enough for the other members to follow up as well.

Julie Hedlund: That's even better. That's very good. Thank you very much.

Evangelos Melagrakis: But Vaggelis, are you sure that we will have the other members on the 19th of August?

Vaggelis Segredakis: I'm not sure. I'm not sure, but we could try to set the teleconference with - by asking the other members if they can participate on the 19th.

Julie Hedlund: Yes.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Okay.

Julie Hedlund: What I will do, since we have some time before the 19th, is I will send the notice to the team, and I will ask them to confirm if they can attend. And if so, we'll go with that time. If not, we'll try to select a different time.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Okay.

Julie Hedlund: But I hope because it's a couple of weeks' notice, that that will be enough time for them to arrange for it.

Evangelos Melagrakis: All right.

Julie Hedlund: Good. Well, thank you very much. I think this sounds like an excellent plan, and now I can all let you go a little early so you can get back to your morning. And I really do appreciate your help, and I will send out some brief notes from this call tomorrow, and then we'll follow with the transcription, I think, by this Friday and also with the recording. And I will also send the meeting notice around tomorrow to the full Greek team, and I will ask everyone to confirm that they can attend on the 19th or we'll select a different time.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Good. And Julie, on behalf of the group, I would like to thank you very much for your assistance and your help up to today. And I'm really glad that you chose the Greek group.

Julie Hedlund: Thank you very much.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Yes.

Vaggelis Segredakis: And we're very sorry to keep you awake so late in the night.

Julie Hedlund: Not at all. It's no problem at all. I am used to being up at all hours, so not a problem.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Okay.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Thank you.

Julie Hedlund: Thank you very much to all of you. I hope you have a very good morning and a good weekend coming up. And we will talk on the 19th or whatever works best for the full team. And in the meantime, I'll do my work and then also please let me know if I can help you in your work in any way.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Thank you very much, Julie.

Julie Hedlund: Thank you. Thank you, everyone.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Thank you very much, Julie. Nice hearing you again.

Julie Hedlund: Yes. Nice hearing you too. Thank you. Then I will go ahead and adjourn this call and thank you again.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Thank you.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Bye-bye.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Bye.

Julie Hedlund: Bye.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Bye-bye.

Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos: Bye-bye, everybody.

Vaggelis Segredakis: Bye-bye. Yassou.

Evangelos Melagrakis: Yassou.

Julie Hedlund: Yassou.

END